

# SB 2379

Measure Title: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

Report Title: Little Fire Ant; Hawaii Island; Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Program, Little Fire Ant Site Map; Appropriations (\$)

Description: Mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a Little Fire Ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map. Requires the Department of Agriculture to report to the Legislature on project implementation. Appropriates funds.

Companion: HB1607

Package: None

Current Referral: EET/WLA, WAM

Introducer(s): KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party)

JAN 22 2016

---

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

---

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the *Wasmannia*  
2   *auropunctata*, known as the little fire ant, threatens native  
3   biodiversity, alters tropical ecosystems, impairs human health,  
4   impedes tourism, diminishes agricultural productivity, mars  
5   horticulture sales, and accordingly ranks among the world's  
6   worst invasive species. Human behaviors and habitats allow the  
7   little fire ant to move quickly, disperse widely, grow to high  
8   densities, and inhabit locations not otherwise possible.

9       Hawaii's tropical climate is ideally suited for little fire  
10   ant establishment and growth. The little fire ant, by far one  
11   of Hawaii's worst invasive pests, is not only bothersome to  
12   residents, visitors, and farmers because of its nasty sting, it  
13   also harms agriculture and natural areas by nurturing other  
14   invasive pests such as aphids, mealybugs, soft scale insects,  
15   and whiteflies.

16       The legislature further finds that when compared to the  
17   other counties, the county of Hawaii has been affected the most



1 by the little fire ant. The University of Hawaii, the county of  
2 Hawaii, and the department of agriculture must collaborate to  
3 develop and implement effective measures to address the impacts  
4 of the little fire ant in the county of Hawaii.

5 The department of agriculture's little fire ant program was  
6 created to survey, detect, and develop the most efficient little  
7 fire ant management strategy with minimal impact to the State's  
8 tropical ecosystem and non-target organisms, while serving as  
9 the role model to eradicate the little fire ant in all  
10 communities. The legislature finds that the department of  
11 agriculture needs to be more proactive and aggressive in  
12 implementing its current fire ant program.

13 The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot project and  
14 appropriate funds for the development and implementation of  
15 additional tools to assist the department of agriculture to  
16 expand its current little fire ant program.

17 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall establish  
18 and implement a pilot pesticide treatment coupon project within  
19 its current little fire ant program. The pilot project shall  
20 distribute coupons redeemable for appropriate pesticide at  
21 suppliers or vendors within the county of Hawaii at no cost to



1 individuals who have reported and verified to the department the  
2 presence of little fire ants on their property within the county  
3 of Hawaii. Each coupon shall be valid for a one-year supply of  
4 the department's recommended treatment plan.

5 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall create a  
6 map that indicates all little fire ant sites in the county of  
7 Hawaii by using all its available data, including verified  
8 reports of little fire ant sites. The maps shall be updated  
9 periodically and made available on the department's website.

10 SECTION 4. The department of agriculture shall submit a  
11 report on its progress in implementing the mandates in sections  
12 2 and 3 of this Act to the legislature no later than twenty days  
13 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2017. The  
14 report shall include findings and recommendations, any necessary  
15 proposed legislation, and whether the pilot project in section 2  
16 and little fire ant site map in section 3 of this Act should be  
17 continued, terminated, or modified.

18 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the



# S.B. NO. 2379

1 little fire ant pilot project in section 2 and the little fire  
2 ant site map in section 3 of this Act.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.  
6

INTRODUCED BY:

*Ann H. H.*  
*By Request*



# S.B. NO. 2379

**Report Title:**

Little Fire Ant; Hawaii Island; Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Program, Little Fire Ant Site Map; Appropriations

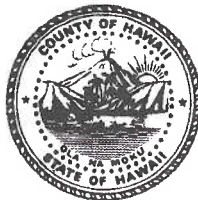
**Description:**

Mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a Little Fire Ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map. Requires the Department of Agriculture to report to the Legislature on project implementation. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*



DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI  
Council Member  
District 3



PHONE: (808) 961-8396  
FAX: (808) 961-8912  
EMAIL: [donishi@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:donishi@hawaiicounty.gov)

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

### TESTIMONY IN **STRONG UPPORT** OF SENATE BILL NO. 2379

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

#### COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

#### COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Friday, February 12, 2016, 1:20 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Honorable Chair Wakai

And Members of the Committee on Economic Dev., Environment & Technology

Honorable Chair Gabbard

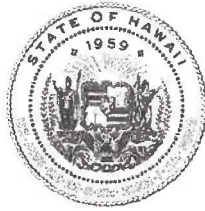
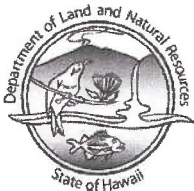
And Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of SB 2379**, which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant pesticide treatment coupon pilot project, to create a site map, and to report to the Legislature on its progress.

The County of Hawai'i has been affected the most by the little fire ant. It is the worst invasive species and it is quickly spreading. It is imperative to appropriate funds to assist the Department of Agriculture to expand its current little fire ant program.

Please recommend approval of this bill. Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY  
and  
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Friday, February 12, 2016  
1:20 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2379  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 2379 proposes to create a coupon program for residents to receive treatments for little fire ant infestations and require the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to create maps of infested areas. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department recognizes the importance of controlling little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) in Hawaii, as this ant species has substantial impacts to our natural resources, agriculture, and way of life. The Department notes that the program described by this measure would provide homeowner assistance in temporarily decreasing the presence of ants on private land, but that it is not a long-term control or eradication strategy. The Department supports this measure, provided that its passage does not impact long-term control and eradication projects managed by HDOA or the Hawaii Ant Lab (a project of the University of Hawaii Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit). The Department defers to HDOA on the details of how to best implement such a program and generate the maps described by this measure.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 12, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2379  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 414  
1:20 PM

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Slom, Vice Chair Nishihara, and  
Members of the Committees:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB is in strong support of SB 2379**, which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a Little Fire Ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map. Requires the Department of Agriculture to report to the Legislature on project implementation.

HFB recognizes the harm that the little fire ant has caused to farms, businesses, and the quality of life of those affected by the pest. We agree that immediate measures must be undertaken to stop its spread to other areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY AND WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

February 12, 2016  
1:20 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

SENATE BILL NO. 2379  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairpersons Wakai and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 2379. This bill mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant (LFA) Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map, and requires reports to be submitted to the Legislature prior to the 2016 and 2017 Regular Sessions. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's Executive Budget.

The Department understands the harmful and invasive nature of LFA. As such, the Department has provided support to Hawaii County for a pilot program to combat LFA beginning with Hawaii County parks. The Department has also provided funding and support for the Hawaii Ant Lab, an organization that has been on the forefront in the fight against LFA and has created new and innovative methods to treat and eradicate LFA infestations. Furthermore, it is our understanding that the Hawaii Ant Lab is currently working on a map of known LFA infestations throughout the Big Island and further resources for the Hawaii Ant Lab could help them to finish this project and disseminate that information.



In regards to the coupon pilot project, the Department is concerned about the resources that would be required to monitor such a program. It would be very difficult for the Department, with its given resources, to verify and monitor if the pesticides were being used for the purpose of controlling LFA or for other purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

### **Legislative Testimony**

---

Written Testimony Presented Before The  
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology  
and

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Friday, February 12, 2016 at 1:20 p.m.

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### **SB 2379 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Slom and Nishihara, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2379, which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project for Hawai'i County, and a site map of little fire ant infestations on the Island of Hawai'i, and appropriates funds for these purposes.

SB 2379 points out the problem of people "left behind" in the wake of an invasive pest moving across the State, and offers a creative approach to assist them, and to collect current information on the distribution of that pest. Involvement of the public in efforts to control invasive species, given the limited resources available to government agencies, is a useful approach, and the pilot project could create a model for management of other persistent invasive species in the state.

We defer to the Department of Agriculture on fiscal and management implications of SB 2379, but we support the intent of the bill involve the public in efforts to control invasive pests.

February 12, 2016

**The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair**

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

**The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair**

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

State Capitol, Room 414

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: S.B. 2379, Relating to Invasive Species**

**HEARING: Friday, February 12, 2016 at 1:20 p.m.**

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Joint Committees:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,800 members. HAR **supports the intent** of S.B. 2379 which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Little Fire Ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map, and requires the Department of Agriculture to report to the Legislature on project implementation.

HAR believes that programs and efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species are valuable to the quality of life of our residents and visitors who travel to our islands. The spread of invasive species can have extreme negative impacts to the economy, tourism, and real estate industries.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.